

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1677 without my signature.

I am supportive of the Joint-Use Facilities Program because it encourages creative win-win relationships between school districts and community partners. However, I am concerned that this bill would seriously undermine the policy goals and fiscal accountability of the Joint-Use Facilities Program.

This bill would effectively eliminate the requirement that a joint-use partner contribute to the project. All entities benefiting from the project should provide some sort of contribution to the project. I am also concerned that this bill would allow state bond funds to support lower-priority joint-use projects that do not necessarily have direct educational benefits. Joint-Use Facility Program projects funded from education bonds should have some direct educational benefit.

Furthermore, allowing joint-use facilities to be built on private property could jeopardize the tax-exempt nature of bond proceeds authorized for those projects and could also result in a gift of public funds to the extent that the state is prohibited from future use of the site due to changes in ownership or other circumstances beyond the control of the state or the school district.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger